

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

**April 21, 2025**

Writer: Eric Jensen



*Celebrating 103 years of Service*

## THE MAGIC OF ROTARY 2024-2025

President **REBECCA GERALDI** pressed us into attention at 12:30pm, sharp, giving the Zoomers their moment of attention before handing it over to President Elect **BRUCE GEE** to introduce visiting Rotarians and guests

Visiting Rotarian: Sharron Schendel of the Rotary Club Del Mar and sister of **SUZANNE JAIN**.

Guests: **KANIKA SABHARWAL** introduced Randa Hoffman, past Rotarian in Bellevue, Washington and currently a financial advisor who is new to Palo Alto. **RALPH ADAMS** introduced Professor John Swensson of De Anza College's Global Education Partnerships. RALPH described the Professor, a friend of 50 years, as "not such a bad guy".

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Today's thought was brought to us by **KRISTINA LUGO**.

She recited the beautiful poem "The Summer Day" by Mary Oliver. The last line of the poem is "Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?"

leaving us thoughtful and introspective during these interesting times.



## PRESIDENTS CLUB

**KRISTINA** then joined the President's Club in honor of Avenidas Lifetime Achievers and Rotarians: **MIKE COUCH and DAN (and Helen) QUINN**. Tickets [still available](#) for the recognition event on May 18 in a private garden event. **JACKIE WHEELER** joined to sing the praises of Palo Alto Players "Jersey Boys" which wraps up this weekend. Just a few tickets [still available](#).

## OUR ENDOWMENT FUND DRIVE IS ON



**BETSY BECHTEL** highlighted the current Endowment campaign. You should have received the invitation to donate in the mail. The \$1.2M endowment fund is the club's safety net and is essential in keeping the club stable. While you have likely donated to the local charities, this is a different ask. The letter describes

how to go online to give. Currently on the Endowment board are BETSY as CHAIR, **MIKE MCMAHON** (Treasurer), **LARRY KLINE**, **PATTY MCGUIGAN**, **TIM WATSON**, **DANA TOM**, and **JULIE JEROME**. Thank you all for your service!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS - TGIF Friday @5:30

**April TGIF** will be hosted by **KATHY & MIKE TORGERSEN** in their Palo Alto home on Friday, **April 25<sup>th</sup>**, from 5:30pm to 7:00pm. Always a pleasant gathering to be better

acquainted with our fellow Rotarians. Bring a bottle of wine or other beverage to share.

**LINNET KWOK** announced a "save the date" for the Second Annual Rotary Pickleball Charity Tournament taking place October 4 & 5. More news in the coming months. Contact LINNET if you would like to help put this on. She also announced "Rotary in action" tee-shirts are available for pick-up at **BEN THRELKELD's** [Cambridge Optometry](#). Only large sizes for now - more sizes to be announced soon. New members go get your shirts!

**STEVE EMSLIE** passed around a sign-up sheet for greeters. If you want to greet and did not get a chance to sign-up - email STEVE. If you want to be an on-call usher for the final showings of Jersey Boys this weekend, email DANA



- \*Indoors and outdoors activities
- \*Bathrooms available
- \*All abilities welcome

## PROGRAM

DANA TOM introduced today's speaker;

**Janine Zacharia** who is currently a lecturer at Stanford University's Department of Communication and has been the Jerusalem Bureau Chief for the Washington Post, chief diplomatic correspondent for Bloomberg News, Washington bureau chief for the Jerusalem Post, and Jerusalem correspondent for Reuters. She has



reported on Israel, the Middle East and U.S. foreign policy for close to two decades. She is the recipient of the 2020-21 Dean's Award for Distinguished Teaching in the Stanford University School of Humanities and Sciences. She is the author of several books including "How to Report Responsibly on Hacks and Disinformation", and "Polarization and the Press: 12 Ways to Restore Respect for Your Reporting".

Today Janine held a lively interactive discussion on the current challenges in journalism, including misinformation, disinformation, the decline of local news, and the erosion of public trust in legacy media and why that might be occurring. Janine emphasized the importance of supporting public media and critical thinking. She asked thoughtful questions like "what is news" and "who is a journalist"; giving members a chance to process those questions as a group. She shared a snippet of her experience in the field and the vital role of journalist and editor as agents of a process. She recommended going to <https://www.pressforward.news/> to get involved in supporting journalism.

## Rotary DAY OF SERVICE - MAY 17th

### Saturday, May 17 -- Rotary International Global Epic Day of Service

A signup sheet was going around for EPIC DAY of SERVICE. EDOS is a national Rotary event providing hands-on service to the local community. This year, all three Rotary Clubs will work together at Cooley Landing with Grassroots Ecology from 9am-Noon. You are invited to attend one of two separate projects at the location: A labor project restoring the habitat including weeding, watering, mulching, and trash cleanup. Sign-up [here](#) for this labor intensive project. The second project is in the same place and lighter in labor and suitable for ages 13 and up. It will be fabricating 2,000 biodegradable bamboo plant marking stakes and/or assembling 25 or more gopher cages to protect new plantings. Signup for this second project on the pass around sheet or by sending an email to **ERIC JENSEN** at [erichthorjensen@gmail.com](mailto:erichthorjensen@gmail.com).

After the meeting, Janine offered her email zacharia@stanford.edu for anyone who would like to follow-up with her. She also offered a link to a recent interview:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ZnKRtASuGY&t=9s>. Finally, she has two events

upcoming that she wanted to invite members to:

[Rebele Symposium on News Influencers Tues.](#)

[April 29 at 5:30 p.m.](#)

[Digital literacy event May 21.](#)

## CLOSING REMARKS

At 1:30, **President REBECCA** thanked our speaker with a coffee mug of gratitude and rang the meeting to a close.

## TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS

Greeter: **Mike Fogarty**

Welcome Desk: **Katie Seedman**

A/V: **Ben Threlkeld**

Microphones: **Charlie Weidanz**

Pinion Writer: **Eric Jensen**

Pinion Editor: **Ginny Lear**

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

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| <b>April 25</b><br><b>5:30-7 pm</b><br><b>TGIF</b> | <b>TGIF: Home of Kathy &amp; Mike Torgersen, Palo Alto.</b> <i>Please bring a beverage to share!</i>   |
| <b>April 28</b><br>12:15-1:30pm<br>Club Meeting    | <b>Bill Liberatore and the award winning Gunn High School Choir</b> Musical Selections. Don't Miss It!   |
| <b>May 5</b><br>12:15-1:30pm<br>Club Meeting       | <b>Tara VanDerveer, former Stanford Women's Basketball Coach, (1996-2024) and the winningest coach in NCAA history</b><br>The Changing Nature of College Athletics |
| <b>May 12</b><br>12:15-1:30pm<br>Club Meeting      | <b>Dave Edlund: "McCovey Cove Dave"</b> Topic: Scuba Diving on a Golf Course   |
| <b>May 19</b><br>12:15-1:30pm<br>Club Meeting      | <b>Santa Clara Co. Supervisor Margaret Abe-Koga,</b> Topic: Asian American Stories & How the Board of Supervisors Serve You  |
| <b>May 26</b><br>12:15-1:30pm<br>Club Meeting      | <b>DARK: No Club meeting</b><br><b>Memorial Day Weekend</b><br><b>FLAGS on University Avenue</b><br><b>Project happening</b>                                       |